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17 September 1984**JACK ANDERSON****Japanese Train  
Anti-Sandinistas  
In Guerrilla War**

In its first known venture into undercover military operations since preparations for the attack on Pearl Harbor 43 years ago, the Japanese government has taken a modest part in the guerrilla war against the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua.

This development was disclosed recently to my roving reporter, Jon Lee Anderson, by a top "contra" leader in the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa. The source is an intelligence agent for the Miskito Indian rebel force based in Honduras.

He said that from February to June of this year, six Japanese military instructors had been sent by their government to train commandos for missions against the pro-communist Nicaraguan regime.

The Japanese trained 100 Miskito warriors in guerrilla tactics. "They taught hand-to-hand combat, martial arts and how to make booby traps," the source said.

The Miskito agent offered no further information on the Japanese, other than that they had kept to themselves on off-duty hours and apparently spoke neither Spanish, English nor the Indian language.

My associate had been discreetly inquiring about the Japanese since

earlier this summer, when he encountered a Japanese in civilian clothes in Tegucigalpa, in the company of an American mercenary.

The American was head of a three-man team from the "Interpoint Consulting Corp." based in the Cayman Islands. My reporter met him in the Miskitos' base camps inside Nicaragua. The mercenary said he was there "on spec"—to see if money could be made by training Indian guerrillas and selling them weapons.

After weeks of scouting, he said, he left because he had concluded that the Indian forces were virtually broke. When my reporter saw him again in Tegucigalpa, he was accompanied by the Japanese man. The latter said not a word, and when my associate spoke to him, he merely nodded and turned away.

How the Japanese government got involved in the guerrilla war against the Managua regime is not clear. Other countries—Taiwan and Israel, for example—reportedly have given covert aid to the Nicaraguan contras, and Japan is an influential voice in the international anti-communist movement.

The Miskito intelligence agent said the Japanese government got involved through direct contacts with Steadman Fagoth Muller, 31, the leader of the Misura coalition of Indian guerrillas. The source refused to say whether the U.S. government played any part in getting Fagoth and the Japanese together.

The Misura guerrillas trained by the Japanese are Miskito youths who make up the special-force unit called *Lakya Tara*, or "Big Star." The little-known unit has yet to be committed to sustained actions, as it completed training just as CIA funds were cut off.

But the unit's permanent cadre said *Lakya Tara* and a 70-man explosives team known as TEA have shown their mettle in some sabotage missions against bridges and other targets inside Nicaragua. The TEA sappers were trained by CIA contract agents.